

The Wobbly Oscillator



Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

July 2020 Volume 50 Number 7



Were Back!

July Meeting at Harriet Keeler

From The Prez

July Meeting at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

Our on the air meetings the last few months served their purpose; we took care of necessary business, got meeting minutes into our permanent record, and were able to communicate with fellow CARS members. We were even able to have program presentations on Zoom. The downside was there were precious few members who attended. Worse, only a few members checked out the programs. That was disappointing to me after I took the time and trouble to set them up. At least a couple members said they enjoyed the presentations, so it wasn't a total bust.

There's an old sports adage: "Never change a winning game, always change a losing game."

The On-the-Air meetings are a losing game. Most members want to get back to regular meetings. Churches and other organizations are getting back to in person services and meetings, while keeping social distancing and safe practices in place.

The Board of Directors has voted to hold the July meeting at the Harriet Keeler Picnic Area; the pavilion is closed. We can use a group of picnic tables, and all attendees are requested to bring a lawn chair so we can space out as necessary. The goal is to get together and be comfortably safe. Naturally, members can attend at their own discretion. For this meeting, guests will not be invited.

Spooky Field Day

Running Field Day from home was a really different experience. From 2002 through 2018 I spent every minute of the event at the site from Saturday morning setting up until Sunday evening tearing down and cleaning up. I was always the last to leave. Most participants went home to sleep and shower. Our long standing chef, Bill, N8BBB, was another that stayed all night every year since he joined us. I must give credit to a few others that at times stayed overnight. So to crash out in my own bed instead of a car seat was a real luxury. Even more of a luxury was having a nice clean bathroom instead of a port-a-potty, and a hot water shower instead of a garden hose. My camping days ended with the Boy Scouts. My idea of roughing it is turning the AC down to medium. So enjoying the comforts of home really sweetened up this year's Field Day experience.

Being the CARS Field Day chairman for many years has been a ton of work most people don't realize. The planning starts in the winter after the holidays. The details are many and the completion of all necessary tasks is extremely time consuming. The last month before Field Day is nonstop daily effort. The last few years I have had a committee that has shared the workload. They a great group of guys and have really contributed. I still had to oversee the overall effort and attend to many details and tasks myself. This year there was nothing to do except answer some questions for the guys who were planning to run home stations. It was nice to avoid the grind.

But there was something missing. Something worth the work. Something worth the discomfort. Something worth the heartburn. I was the camaraderie of the group. Most of the really good friends I have in CARS began as mere acquaintances until we shared an experience at Field Day. Often it was the work, struggling to put up a tent or an antenna, fixing a broken component, or tearing down the setup and encampment after going without sleep for the better part of thirty hours. A lot of times it was the success of a good run of contacts. Mostly it was just being together and having a good time. This is what we do this for, fun and enjoyment. Making lifelong friends, that's even better.

73, Toby, WT8O



WT8O riding the waves on Field Day

Welcome New Members

Anthony Kuches, KE8OMG

Kathy Stouffer, KE8OMF

Mark Swanson, KE8OKN

Tom Wieczorek, KE8OCF

Peep from the Veep July 2020

Mark, WJ8WM

I had an occasion recently to loan a friend my generator after he lost power to his house. His electrical service was damaged during a construction project and they were going to be without power for a few days while we were making repairs.

Coincidentally, we were making preparations for a whole house generator during this project. We had installed the gas line and the conduit but the generator is still a ways off.

Anyway, I connected the generator to his house and with some new fuel and a little fiddling the generator was running and his lights were back on. It was the fiddling got me concerned.

I started taking inventory of the small equipment I have. Turns out, I have a lot of it! A couple of mowers, string trimmers, and snow blowers, leaf blower, chain saw, post hole digger, and the generator. They all take maintenance especially with today's fuel. It really takes a toll on the small engine fuel systems. In fact, one of the places I purchase parts recommends you dump the fuel after each use so it doesn't sit in the fuel lines and gaskets. Another place recommended using premium fuel only and storing it in a metal can because it will stay fresher than in plastic. I add Stabil when I fill my five gallon can so I don't have to remember before winter. I have a tag on the can and note the date I filled it.

I also use this fuel to mix the various fuels for the 2-cycle tools. I only mix enough of those fuels that I can use in a couple of months. Whatever is left after that I dump in my truck and start over. Another, often overlooked item is oil. Small engine oil changes are usually expressed in terms of hours or seasons. I am / was terrible with this and started tagging the equipment to keep track of it. I should start a logbook for equipment. I try to note my radio and antenna changes in my station logbook.

I hope some of these suggestions help. Maybe you can think about checking your equipment while the weather is nice and before you have to call it into service.

July Net Shed

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, July 14 - 7:30 PM

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area

Brecksville Reservation

JUL	1	KD8OUE
JUL	8	AC8NW
JUL	15	KD8ACO
JUL	22	K8RJH
JUL	29	WT8O

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PL 110.9)

June 9, 2020 CARS Meeting Minutes

Because of the coronavirus, the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society held its June 2020 meeting on the club repeater 146.82 (-) MHz at 7:30 P. M.

CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 P. M.

PLEDGE OF ALEGENCE---Those present pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

MAY MINUTES---The May minutes were approved as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

TWO NEW MEMBERS---Two new members were approved for membership in the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society; they were Kathy Stouffer, KE8OMF, and Anthony Kuches, KE8OMG. Both new members attended CARS training classes.

TREASURER'S REPORT---There were no major changes in our treasury in the last month.

WOBBLY OSCILLATOR---Toby, WT8O, thanked those that contributed to the *Wobbly Oscillator* in the past and encouraged the members to contribute in the future, if possible.

RADIO HELP---Bob, KC8MRC, needs help with his radio. Anyone that is in a position to help, please contact Bob or Toby, WT8O.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP---It was pointed out that anyone considering joining or renewing membership in the ARRL should do so through CARS.

VICE PRESIDENT---No report

SECRETARY---No report

POWER ON FIELD DAY---After contacting ARRL Toby, WT8O, reported that the power used on Field Day would be determined by the individual operator. Be sure to report your club affiliation as The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society so that the club can get credit.

PUBLIC SERVICE--- Eddie, KD8FTS, reported that the Geauga County Fair would go on as scheduled. Although the fair is not until Labor Day they would like as many volunteers as possible to sign up as soon as possible.

ADJOURNED---The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P. M.

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, Secretary

After the meeting Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, gave a Zoom presentation on Field Day in these trying times.

July Birthdays

George Pindroh, KSKR 7/5/42

Jim Bus, NSFND 7/9/45

Arp Viiberg, KSARP 7/12/54

Matt Flask, KESMYL 7/21/90

Bill Savage, WASGEO 7/27/40

Eric Schreiber, KESMJI 7/28/49

Rich Williams, NWSX 7/30/37

Tyler Robbins
Wins 2020 Scholarship

Tyler Robbins, grandson of Bob Robbins, K8RGI, was a very deserving winner of our 2020 scholarship. Tyler graduated this year from high school with the outstanding overall Grade point Average of 3.57. Besides being an excellent student, he was very active in the school music program as a trumpet player in the marching band, concert band, pep band, and show choir band.

Tyler will be studying astrophysics at The University of Toledo and aspires to obtain a Ph.D. His long term goal is become a researcher at NASA.

We congratulate Tyler and wish him the very best for his bright future.



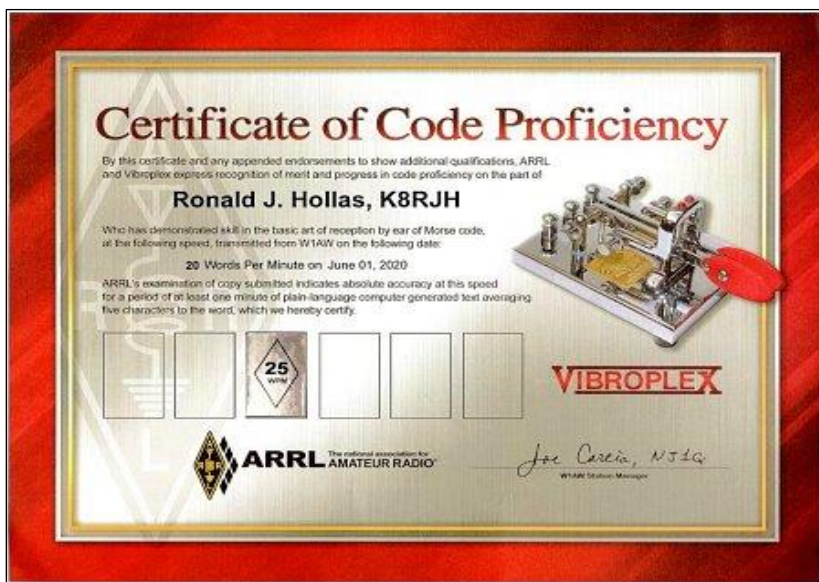
Ron, K8RJH, Earns 25 WPM Certificate

Ron Hollas, K8RJH, is one of this month's recipients of the ARRL Morse Code Proficiency Certificate, demonstrating the skill of accurate copy of clear text at 20 and 25 words per minute (wpm) in the W1AW Qualifying Run Program.

According to Ron, "I was motivated to obtain this recognition after the May 2020 CARS Virtual Club Meeting Presentation on Morse Code, which had included useful resources and tips used for improving my code speed and accuracy. One of the immediate benefits I noted is a greater enjoyment of operating the HF Code Bands by improving my telegraphy skill".

"I have used various code practice sources" Ron said, "including using direct HF reception of W1AW broadcasts and the *W1AWBDCT* EchoLink node. I recommend the EchoLink connection to be a great place for individuals to practice the code with real-time ARRL Bulletins."

Ron intends to improve his code proficiency and attempt achieving the higher speed copy endorsements in the future.



Camaraderie in Action Moves an Antenna

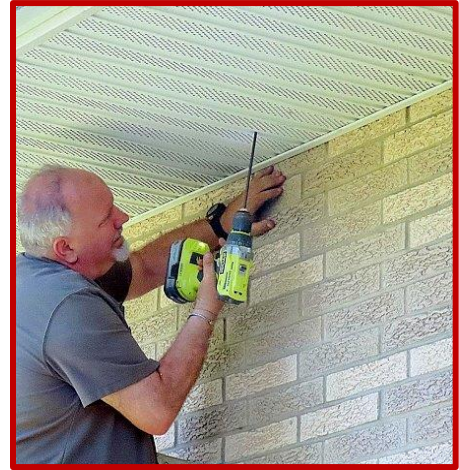
Andy, KD8SCV

“Fraternalism” is one of the anchors of the CARS Mission Statement. And I was reminded of its real meaning when a fellow CARS member, Mark Moro, WJ8WM, helped me with an antenna project recently.

A few months after I earned my Technician’s license in 2012, I bought and installed an Arrow OSJ 146/440 J-pole antenna in my attic to connect to my base station. Although generally pleased with its operation, I knew moving it outside and higher would deliver much better performance, including better connection to repeaters offering Digital Voice Modes (DVM), such as DMR, C4FM, and D-STAR as well as the CARS repeater network.

Earlier this year, my wife and I canceled our satellite TV service and opted for cable. I had thought about converting the now unwanted DIRECTV satellite dish into a 2-meter antenna, such as Larry, N8OWS, had described at one of our first club meetings this year. But, I chose to move the J-pole out of the attic and on to the roof instead. In addition, DIRECTV had left a stout 2-inch diameter mast, 18 inches in length, a perfect foundation for an antenna, and needing only a saddle clamp, courtesy of DX Engineering, to secure the J-pole. That was the easy part.

But what would be the best path to bring the feed line into the shack? One of the ridge vents? Through the soffit? I didn’t want to compromise the roof’s integrity in any way, so I opted for the soffit routing. Time to call an expert, in this case, Mark, WJ8WM. Besides his qualifications as a licensed electrician, I enjoyed reading his story in the May 2020 *W.O.* on moving antennas at his QTH.



Drilling test hole to avoid hitting a rafter.



Mark pushes flexible PVC conduit.

After explaining what I had in mind, he generously offered his help. On June 6th, a Saturday, Mark came over and we got started. He demonstrated his expertise immediately when he recommended a raceway (conduit) to offer the best path for running the feed line from outside into the attic. (Me: “Wow, this guy *really* knows his stuff.”)

Even within the realm of raceways, there are options and we had to try a couple. First up, a combination of a rigid 2-inch PVC 90 ° sweep elbow and straight length, but it wasn’t long enough given our home’s 24 inch deep soffits.

The next option proved the perfect solution; about 15 feet of flexible 2-inch PVC, pushed up through the soffit and across the rafters in the attic. Mark pushed and I pulled (as you’ll see in the photos). Although it was beautiful outside that day, the early June sun beating down on the roof turned the attic into an oven, so neither of us relished going up there. But, ever resourceful, Mark brought a robust, battery-powered portable fan to use in the attic, taking a bit of the edge out the heat.

Four hours later, the feed line was in place, and after making the final connections, it was time for the antenna analyzer. You can see the result in the photo, an SWR of 1.13:1 (it was 1.6:1 in this attic), dramatically lower noise, and greater reach to repeaters further from my QTH. One example, I've never been able to hit the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club's repeater in Cuyahoga Falls, 147.270 MHz, but now I can. And connections to the various DVM repeaters, most of which operate on the 70 cm band, are far more solid.



Running feed line through conduit. (L)



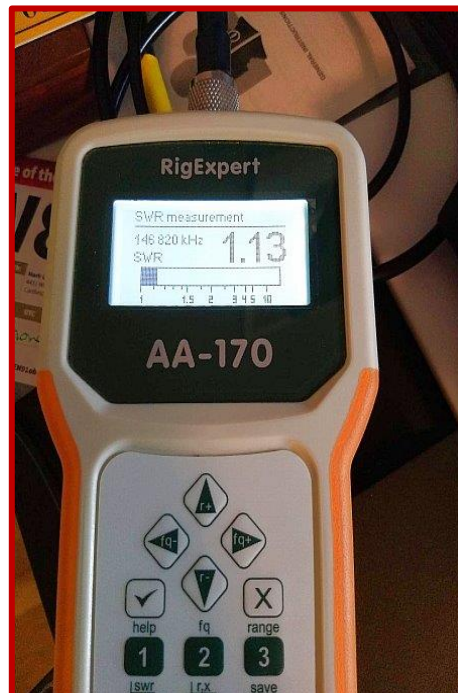
Connecting feed line to antenna. (R)

I learned a lot from Mark, such as using 2-inch size PVC conduit for the raceway. It's a smart choice because it leaves enough space for another feed line which I'll use to install an outside HF antenna later on. Plus, his attention to details to ensure a neat installation such as a trim ring around the conduit where it protrudes from the soffit, securing the feed line to the soffit, and tying string to the installed feed line to make it easier to remove if needed are the sign of a pro. But it was also a good reminder of how far a CARS member was willing to go to help a fellow ham. Thank you, Mark!



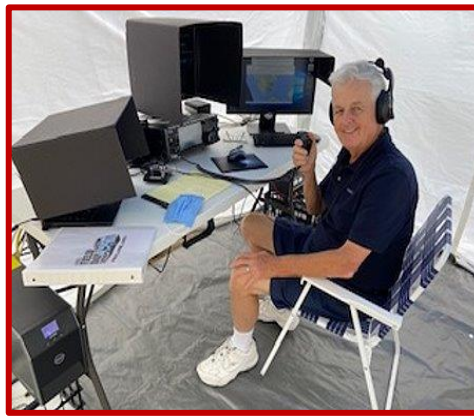
Job complete! (L)

The reward-SWR of 1.13 to one on 146.82 MHz. (R)





Bob getting the kids on the air.



Bob, K8RGI, at the mike on Field Day.



Bob advertised his home station for all to see.

Field Day 2020 One Hams Take Toby, WT8O

It was the best of Field Days; it was the worst of Field Days (sorry Charlie). The worst time was when I decided to get some shut eye shortly after 1:00 AM Sunday. With almost half of the operating time gone, I had only logged a lousy 83 contacts. I almost threw my radio against the brick wall in my basement shack. The performance of my setup sucked wind. The radio in use was my trusty Icom 746 Pro that has served me faultlessly through blistering heat and pelting rain at Field Days for a decade and a half. My Heil headset and LDG tuner have been with me just about as long. The only untested component was the newly constructed end fed antenna at the new QTH.

Any contester will tell you, the only way to rack up contacts is to hold a "freak." The search and pounce method is painfully slow. At 1:59 and 40 seconds I started calling CQ on 20, licking my chops and presuming I wouldn't actually log a contact until after the official starting time of 2:00 PM. Starting on 20 was a mistake, the band was half dead and noisy. At 2:20 I was getting a little fidgety, not one ham had answered my call. I switched over to 40. The band was already packed and it was hard to find an open space. When I did squeeze in, I was overpowered by stronger stations. No contacts at 2:40. Talk about spinning my wheels.

I had to know if my station was working at all, I went to plan "C" and started searching and pouncing. (Plan "B" was to string up my 20/80 dipole that I used successfully at many a Field Day over the years. That would take hours that I didn't have the patience for.) I had trouble hitting stations, even ones that were calling CQ and didn't have pileups. I managed a few contacts, so my thoughts about a bad feedline were dismissed. As the contacts slowly added up, I noticed that I had trouble breaking through pileups and I wasn't hitting anyone west of the Mississippi. The station worked, but quite miserably.

After a somewhat long dinner break, I went back to it and decided the contest was a total loss; I just tried to get as many contacts as I could. Much later, I hit the sack with the afore mentioned 83 contacts and a pounding headache; a beaten man.

I rolled out of bed with a new day's enthusiasm and rushed down to the shack. I turned back and reckoned at least I should make my morning coffee. I poured a cup and fired up the radio and confuser.

I slowly checked things out. With renewed fervor, I thought I would attempt to call CQ and try to hold a frequency. All the bands were sparsely populated. 80 was still alive, so I made a few contacts there, including Scott, N3FJP. 20 was waking up and there was plenty of room to hop in, but I was really having trouble, even pouncing. Suprisingly, 40 had plenty of room. I pounced on a couple of stations and hit them with the first shot. One even said I was booming in.

The best time came when I found an open spot and said "What the hell, go for it." I called CQ-and nothing. I called again, a station came back. I felt like an angler landing a prize fish. I talked a bit to draw in some action. It worked; another station came back as soon as I said Q-R-Zed. For the next five hours I never touched the tuning dial; the stations just kept on commin'. I never finished that first cup of coffee; I carried a cold half cup to the kitchen at 2:00 Sunday afternoon after I made my last contact and shut the radio down. There were a few short lulls, but none that caused me to move off my frequency. And the pileups - they were awesome. To me, there is nothing in ham radio that is more fun, or that gets my adrenaline going like saying "the station ending in Whiskey Bravo only please." Doing it hour after hour is a total blast. It's what keeps me coming back. It's the best time one can have in radio.

The screenshot shows a logging software interface with the following sections:

- Recent Contacts:** A table with columns: Rpt, Call, Class, Sec, Date / Time, Bnd, Mode, Country, Initials, Operator. It lists several contacts from Virginia, including K2RD, W2JHP, W9MVA, K5BKT, W0JG, K8OPQ, W1ENO, K0VBU, and N1RR.
- Score Statistics:**
 - Total CW Contacts: 48
 - Total Phone Contacts: 74
 - Total DIG Contacts: 0
 - Total QSO Points: 170
 - QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min): 24
 - QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min): 18
- Grid:** A grid of state abbreviations (e.g., DE, MDC, AR, NTX, AK, NV, CO, MO) with numbers indicating contact counts for each.
- Possible Duplicates:** A section showing contact statistics for Virginia: Total = 3, Bands: 80 = 1, 40 = 2, CW = 1, PH = 2.

Screenshot of Dave's (AC8TN) final log on Field Day



Metro sent in this certificate he won in the Arkansas QSO party.

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC

Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N

Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK

Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O

Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H

Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG

Elected 5/14/19

Ham Needs Help

Mike, KD8AK, needs a hand removing an older triband Mosley antenna from his home in Brecksville. The accompanying photos show the setup, as well as the lowering device he uses to service the antenna and/or rotor.

Mike just needs the antenna taken down and removed. The antenna would be given to whoever gets it down. His QTH is near the intersection of routes 21 and 82.

Please contact Toby, WT8O, if you can lend a hand.

73, Toby, WT8O

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

Brecksville

444.75 (+) Receive PL Tone 131.8

449.75 Transmit

Stand-alone Not Linked

Shaker Hts.



The antenna Mike, KD8AK, needs removed.



A detailed shot of the lowering device

RadioSport

Contests

July 4, 1400 – July 5, 1400 **Marconi Memorial HF Contest** 1.8 - 28 CW
Exchange: RST, serial arifano.it/contest_marconi.html

July 11, 1200 – July 12, 1200 **IARU HF World Championship** 1.8 – 2.8 CW Ph
Exchange: HQ stations: RS(T), IARU Society – Others: RS(T), ITU zone
arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

July 18, 1800 – July 19, 2100 **CQ Worldwide VHF Contest** 50, 144 July CW Ph Dig
Exchange: 4-char grid square www.cqww-vhf.com

Special Events Stations

June 29 – July 5, 0400-0400 **W9IMS** Indianapolis, IN **The Brickyard 400** 18.140 14.245 7.245 3.840
Certificate and QSL www.w9ims.org

July 4, 1400-2000 **K4RC** Williamsburg, VA **Colonial Williamsburg Special Event** 14.265 7.265
QSL www.k4rc.net

July 11 – July 13, 1700 - 2359 **W5D** Adair, OK **Dalton Gang SES** 14.240 7.225 3.850
QSL www.mcarc.me

QSO Parties

July 18, 1800 - July 19, 0559 **North American QSO Party, RTTY** 3.5-28 Dig www.ncjweb.com/naqp
Exchange: Name, state/DC/province/country

Sampling from July, 2020 QST - Pg. 74 and 85. See QST for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

CARS 2020 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

WJ8WM **, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV,
AC8NW, AC8TN, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50

KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus

KD8FTS **

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** W8GC

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8QBB ** KD8BAL

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

K8RJH ** pop, ?? ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, WB8ROK, WT8O

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO,
K8RJH, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

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wt8o@att.net

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Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:

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Alternate Chairman: Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

even year executive board 2 year term
K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term
KD8SCV, K8ARP, K8RJH

License trustee

K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC



June 30, 2020